**BUNDAY, MAY 21, 1899.** 

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid. DAILY, per Month DAILY, per Year. BUNDAY, per Year. DAILY AND BUNDAY, per Year. 70 DAILY AND BUNDAY, per Month Postage to foreign countries added. THE SUN, New York City.

Pants-Rhoque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Kinsque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

#### Dewey's Return.

The long pennant has been raised over DEWEY'S shap in the Philippines. The Olympin is homeward bound, bringing the Admiral of the a merican Navy, 'triumphant, back to the United States.

What a tremandous year it has been since the Olympia sailed into Manila Bay! How unprecedentedly rlorious for this country! How wonderful hi our political advancement in the world! And how blessed in the effects upon our politics at home! The conflict that opened with Dewey's guns on the coast of Asia wiped out the Mason and Dixon line.

DEWEY comes back, not as the commander in the most decisive vartory of the war, but as the most conspicuous embodiment of the war's richest fruit, national expansion. Although he is on the seatin the Far East, he is living here to-day xight in the hearts of the American people.

A short and happy rowage to the Olym-

#### Ritualism Not Yet Punishable by Law in England.

Notwithstanding the victiones of movement against ritualism started in the Church of England, a movement of which BIT WILLIAM VYENON-HAROUURT has made himself the Parliamentary champion, it was settled last week in the House of Commons that, for the present at all events, secular courts will not be created to punish ritualistic practices. The Church Discipline bill was defeated by a vote of 310 to 156; nevertheless, on motion of Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, the Attorney-General, the House pledged itself to frame hereafter such legislation as may be needed to enforce the existing laws of the Church and realm, if the efforts now making by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to sec ure the obedience of the clergy are not speed Uy effectual.

Had the Church Discipline bill become a law, it would have created new State courts, which would have dealt roughly with large numbers of clergymen. It has been computed that, to put down incense alone, it would be requisite to deprive 600 clergy of their benefices, and to put down the use of vestments, no fewer than 2,000. As such a course would provoke uncompromising resistance on the part of many congregations, many patrons of livings and even of many Bishops, the practical outcome would have been the disruption of the Angilean Church. The High Church section of that body, which undoubtedly comprehends millions of English people, would, by the force of controversy, be strongly impelled in the direction of Rome. The antipathy which would be aroused among High Churchmen toward those whom they would regard as persecutors might not cause all of them to submit forthwith to the Pope, but we may take for granted that it would materially increase the number of conversions to Romanism. More and more the impression would gain ground that for Englishmen there was no longer a via media, or midway stopping, place, between Rome and Geneva. viously, too, the agitation for disestabwould acquire additional momentum, the former Nonconformists being strengthened by those ejected from the Anglican pale on the score of ritualistic offences. Thus, weakened within and assailed from without, it is improbable that the remnant of the Church could long resist disestablishment and disendowment. It cannot, of course, be denied that, as

regards ritualistic practices, the state of things which now exists in the Church of England must be described as anarchical. The two Archbishops are now trying to render the anarchy tolerable by designating certain limits within which variations of ritualistic practice shall be permissible. Unfortunately, the Archbishops can only commend those limits by moral sussion and episcopal influence. The power of enforcement is not in their hands. Coercive furisdiction is the function of the State, a function which, as we saw last week, the State is unwilling to discharge by means of secular tribunals. There remains the alternative of creating ecclesiastical courts, which, for the definition of doctrine and the prescription of ritualistic practice, should be invested with all the authority of the Church. Lord HUGH CECIL has pointed out how such courts might be called into being. Parliament might pass a short act empowering Convocation, or the bi-cameral assembly of the Anglican Bishops and clergy, to reform the occlesiastical courts by canons made in the ordinary way by Royal Letters of Business, and with the consent of the crown. The result would be that the constitution of the courts would be settled after consultation between the Ministry, on the one hand, and, on the other, the Bishops or others representing the majority of the cierical assembly. This would be a constitutional proceeding, and ample security might be given to the rights of the State by deferring the royal assent to the canona until one or the other house of Parliament should have had time to send up a hostile address. It is urged on behalf of such ecclosi-

astical courts, as opposed to secular tribunals, first, that as regards ritualistic practices the former would set wider like and secondly, that wherever those mand the conscientious obedience of all the ritualistic clergy. This, at least, is the belief of those who desire to see disciplinary powers exercised by the Church itself rather than by secular courts. Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, however, and the unthe chief Parliamentary spokesman, contend that, if the ecclesiastical courts created by Convocation were to put a limit to ritualism which High Churchmen would accept, that limit would necessarily be extremely obnoxious to Low Churchmen. There are many reasonable Evangelicals, nevertheless, who admit that it would be better to administer a definite check to ritualistic proceedings, and to have the same limit fixed throughout England and Wales,

than to put up any longer with the present anarchic state of things, under which one sort of ritualistic practices is tolerated in

one diocese and another in another. It is not improbable, therefore, that the experiment proposed by those who desire to avoid disruption on the one hand and disestablishment on the other may be made, and that Convocation may be called upon to exercise its large latent powers for the purpose of forming ecclesiastical courts endued with the entire authority of the Church of England, and, therefore, invested, in the eyes of Anglicans, with an almost irresistible claim to obedience.

## Participants in the Peace Conference

There is a good deal of significance in the composition of the official list of the delegates to the conference at The Hague. We have in mind not only the countries which have been requested to send representatives, but also those from which invitations have been withheld.

The list of States to which invitations have been addressed by the Notherlands Government comprehends every European country which enjoys independence or even semi-independence, with the exception of the principality of Monaco and the little republics of San Marino and Andorra. Por tugal will be found to figure there. So will Servia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro. To Norway no separate invitation is addressed, because that country is personified, diplomatically, in the King of Sweden. In like manner, the many German sovereigns, united in the German Empire, have their diplomatic spokesmen in the delegates of Kaiser WILLIAM II. The Papacy can no longer be described as a territorial entity, but it is a political entity to which many Ambassadors and Ministers are accredited, and it would, undoubtedly, have been invited to the conference but for Italy's determined opposition. Of Mohammedan powers, Turkey and Persia are represented, but not Morocco, Egypt or Bokhara. It is probable that Morocco was excluded because her sovepoign maintains no regular diplomatic, intercourse with the European world by means of Ministers of his own, although he sometimes consents to receive foreign envoys. Egypt could not expect to be a participant, because she is a vassal, ostensibly of the Sultan, and, actually, of Great Britain. An application of the same rule bars out the Ameer of Bokhara, who is a vassal of the Czar and the South Africa republics, which the Czar holds to be, for diplomatic purposes, a vassal of England. For a like reason the great feudatories in the Anglo-Indian Empire are omitted from the list. The invitations sent to China, Japan and Siam are noteworthy, as attesting the admission of those Far Eastern countries within the circle of European comity and international consultation.

But of all the American republics, the United States alone have been requested to send delegates. This, although Brazil and Mexico are each scarcely less powerful than is Spain, while Argentina could make short work of Portugal or of any of the Danubian principalities. It is, also, true that Chili or Venezuela is of more present or prospective importance to the world than is Siam. Nevertheless, by the Czar, and by the Netherlands Government which has acted as his mouthpiece, all the American republics, with the exception of the United States, are treated as non-existent from a diplomatic point of view. That is to say, they occupy in the eye of the Czar's diplomacy the relation to the United States that the Dominion of Canada and Egypt occupy to Great Britain, and that Bokhara occupies to Russia.

There is, of course, no ground for such discrimination in the case of the Latin-American commonwealths, for many of them are represented by Ministers Plenipotentiary in foreign countries, and Mexico sends an Ambassador to Washington, Apparently the Czar has determined to ignore that fact and to assume that a position of subordination has been practically accepted ince the establishment of the Monroe Doctrine through England's consent to arbitrate the boundary of British Guiana at the word of the United States. On no other theory can we explain the exclusion of Bragil and Mexico from a conference in which Persia and Siam are suffered to participate. While noticing this remarkable composition of the conference, we must of course disclaim the existence of such a situation as the Ozar, doubtless with the friction over the Philippines in mind, has been pleased to suggest.

#### Mr. Waldorf Astor's Unnecessary and Absurd Excuse.

Mr. WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR Writes in the Pall Mall Magazine, with creditable pride, of the industry, sagacity, enterprise and venturesome spirit displayed by his great-grandfather, the original JOHN JACOB ASTOR, in the accumulation of the fortune which his descendants have preserved and increased with an inherited appetite for such acquisition. It is pardonable, too, that he traces back the ancestry of his family about one thousand years to PEDRO D'ASTORGA, a distinguished Crusader, through an illustrious line, and we do not question the correctness of the table of descent as he gives it, though it is new to us. The humble circumstances of the birth of JOHN JACOB ASTOR at the village of Wald-Dorf, near Heidelberg, in Germany, in 1763, he records, however, with no less frankness, though in speaking of him as the son of a "peasant" he does not follow precisely the historical record, for John Jacob's father was an honest butcher, and his brother HENRY had established himself in that trade at New York before the founder of the Astor for

tune emigrated to this country. It is not necessary to give Mr. WALDORF ASTOR'S story of the steps by which his great-grandfather rose to wealth after coming to this country in 1783, for they are well known. It is a record of adventure in wild and distant regions in the gathering of the furs out of the sale of which he laid the foundation of his fortune, the greatest in this country at the time of his death; limits than many Evangelicals would | but what justification has the great-grandson for saying after recounting it, limits might be fixed, they would com- that "in America my grandfather's life and character have been distorted and caricatured until only an odd travesty survives?"

Both of these are presented substanti ally as he gives them in such American histories as refer to the subject. The charcompromising Evangelicals, of whom he is acter of John Jacob Aston may not be drawn in them with all the pride and affection of the picture by his great-grandson, but there is no carlcature about it, no trav esty, no ill nature. His great ability and indomitable enterprise as a pioneering trader are recognized and celebrated. Moreover, John Jacob Aston died so lately as 1848, and there are many people still living who were familiar with his personality and knew of his consequence in New

very same year, can only know of them by

Mr. WALDORP ASTOR has no reason to complain of American treatment of his great-grandfather, and it is absurd for him to pretend to make it an excuse for his own permanent departure from the country where was accumulated the fortune of which he holds so large a part and where it still remains almost wholly. John Jacob As-TOR came to America the poor son of a poor German butcher, and died here the richest man in the whole country. It would seem reasonable, therefore, that his descendants enjoying the fruits of his industry and enterprise, should feel satisfied with his treat ment and rejoice at the luck which caused aim to emigrate to this country. Most people would rejoice if their ancestors had been treated as kindly by fortune. Not only did the original ASTOR make his great fortune here, but he also kept it under our laws and our social, political and material development, so that the third generation of the family since is now in possession of it

together with a vast increase. Mr. WALDORF ASTOR'S paper starts out as a defence of his voluntary exile or as an excuse for it by alleging that the old American sentiment was against wealth as "a menace to popular institutions," "that it is democratic and virtuous to be poor and aristocratic and un-American to be rich;" and he avers that the sentiment continues to exist. All the same, however, John JACOB ASTOR accumulated his fortune without interference, and he and his descendants have been subjected to less criticism in America because of the manner of their use of it than they would have received in England The drain upon it to meet public and social exactions has been far less, and their oppor tunities for its rapid multiplication have con sequently been much greater. Long before JOHN JACOB ASTOR came to this country too, there were many rich men for those days who stood high in the public regard-WASHINGTON himself, for example, who was accounted the richest American of his time When the first Aston came to New York he found here much wealth and luxury, and it continued to exist without envy of his accumulations long after he had made himself rich by the fur trade. Mr. WALDORP ASTOB says the "favorite discourse" of 'the preponderating religious sentiment of New England was that only by a miracle, equivalent to the most improbable phenomenon, could a rich man enter into heaven " but so was it the favorite discourse of Jesus himself-in the illustration of the camel and the needle's eve and the parable

of Dives and Lazarus, for instance. Pride in the achievements of his great grandfather is creditable to the sentiment of Mr. WALDORF ASTOR, but his attempt at philosophy to justify his leaving the country in which his fortune was made, and where it is still invested, is pitiably discreditable to his intellect. We do not say this as objecting in any way to his taking up his residence in England. That is his own business, and nobody has any reason for criticising him for doing as his taste inclines in such a matter; but the excuse he seems to have thought it necessary to make for his voluntary exile is only grotesque. It indicates in him a deplorable decadence from the vigor of his American ancestor.

## The Last Word for Gen. Miles-A Fitting Ending of the Case.

We print in another column this morning a communication from Mr. HENRY R. PRO-BASCO of Cincinnati concerning THE SUN'S comments upon his widely published criticism of the Court of Inquiry's report upon the army beef. Mr. PROBASCO, who was an adviser, and we believe is a relative. of Gen. MILES, accused the court of finding Gen. MILES's charges unsustained contrary to the evidence. His theory was that the correspondence and testimony of Gen. EAGAN having referred to beef that should keep seventy-two hours after delivery, the beef must have been embalmed, since natural beef would not so keep. This was the basis of Mr. Probasco's slander of the Court, and of Major Lee's summing up for Gen. MILES, and THE SUN pronounced it a "lying argument," since the case, of course, was governed not by words or correspondence of Gen. EAGAN, but by the contract between the Government and the butchers. That showed that the meat was not to keep seventy-two hours after delivery but, with certain conditions of care in the handling, twenty-four hours. The fact of its great service to the troops and its rapid decay when not eaten soon after delivery need not be reviewed again here.

To THE SUN Mr. PROBASCO has sent a reply, which we publish in full in another column, together with the contract, so that all may read and construe it. And whoever compares the two will agree with THE SUN when it says again that Mr. PROBASCO has employed a lying argument. It will be apparent also that Mr. Probasco has gone still further.

Mr. Probasco merely repeats in support of his side of the controversy statements from different sources relating to the time the meat should keep and processes for keeping it. There is force in none of them. He defends his extraordinary distortion of the contract with testimony of Mr. ARMSTRONG, a rival and unsuccessful contractor, as to what Gen. EAGAN had said; with ARMOUR & Co.'s notice that they had a process by which beef could be preserved; and with evidence that Eagan was confused in regard to his intention and his interpretation of the contract. Nothing of this defence touches the point at issue. Mr. Armstrong did not get the contract. ARMOUR & Co. did not get the contract. The talk or the correspondence or the surmises of Gen. EAGAN's about processed beef did not enter into it. Swift & Co. got the contract; and that was, not to furnish beef to keep seventy-two hours after delivery, the Miles party's imaginary proof of "embalmment," but to keep twenty-four hours, and that with restrictions as to care in covering. Mr. Probasco's letter teems with false argument based on this sort of misrepresentation, for which refutation need not be sought in the beef's delay already referred to. The particular passage of the report dealing with Dr. Dally, to whom Mr. Pro masco appeals, shows that no court in the world could have attached the slightest weight to the Daly testimony.

"How can any fair-minded man," says Mr. PROBASCO, "fail to conclude that, inasmuch as it was known to the Commissary-General that meat would not remain sound for seventy-two hours after delivery in the tropics, he must have known that any contractor proposing to deliver meat which would remain sound for such a length of time must of necessity be compelled to use some process other than cold air." The answer is that the contract for the meat did not provide for what Mr. PROBASCO says it did.

And this takes us back to the third paragraph in Mr. Probasco's communication, in which he says that "the Commissary-York, while his great-grandson, born that General, therefore, proceeded to enter Friendly and Navigator islands. The two frig-

into contract for a supply of beef for our soldiers in Florida, Cuba and Porto Rico which would be guaranteed to be fit for food seventy-two hours after delivery." That passage contains a falsehood. The meat was to go from the ship to the refrigerators on shore, where it was not to remain more than seventy-two hours, and was to keep "twenty-four hours after being issued from the refrigerator buildings to the proper officials of the Government. It was not to keep seventy-two hours after delivery."

There is no possibility for honest conflict in the interpretation of this contract. You cannot make a silk purse out of a ow's ear. The case for Gen. MILES, conceived in recklessness and malice, rests on nothing better, and nothing better can be made of it. Next to positive corruption, it is the most disgraceful episode known in army history. And what more withering comment on it can there be than the fact that its highest advocate, a lawyer of Cincinnati, regarded, we believe, as reputable, seeks to bolster it up not only with reasoning that would discredit a primary class in logic, but with deliberate mis

Gen. Milles's crusade has been an incon ceivably indecent attempt to humbug the American people for MILES'S exaltation and to smirch the fair name of the Federal Administration at a time when the trial of war turned upon it with searching scrutiny the eyes of the entire world. Those concerned in this dastardly work deserve the country's execration.

## The Kearsarge and the Kentucky.

The statement that the Kearsarge will be ready for her trial trip in June, with her yard mate following in July, is of interest, as it is a long time since any nev battleships have been commissioned in the navy. The Alabama, which is one of the next group, is not very far behind the Newport News pair, but since the exigencies of the Pacific have caused the Iows and Oregon to be transferred to that ocean, it is already time to have the loss thereby occasioned in the Atlantic repaired by the addition of two new armorciads.

The chief point of interest in the forthcoming trial is that it will be the first in which the system of superposed turrets is involved. In the Kearsarge and Kentucky the 8-inch guns are mounted directly above the 13-inch. This is a novelty which distinguishes these vessels from all others, here or elsewhere.

The effect, so far as the use of the battery is concerned, will be developed by firings after the vessels are completed and commissioned; but the question as to the influence of this arrangement on buoy ancy, trim or handiness may be determined during the steam trials.

## The Two Leading Witnesses.

Up to to-day the Mazet Committee has shoved before the public notice two figures of special significance.

Mr. RICHARD CROKER, confessedly th master of New York's Municipal Government, averred that the chief use of his power in politics was to make for himself money. A few ways have been shown how he makes money, and how his sons make money. There must, in reason, be many other ways.

Mr. JACOB HESS testified that, for the payment of \$5,000 a year to him as Police Commissioner, he agreed to supply, against all manifest propriety, the vote needed by Mr. CROKER to remove Chief of Police Mc-CULLAGH and install Chief DEVERY.

There have been other witnesses before the Mazet Committee to gain distinction through their testimony, but none to compare with Mr. CROKER and Mr. HESS. It is doubtful if any come to surpass them.

## Vixen and Viking.

After some vexing delays the Vixen, under Lieutenant-Commander KIMBALL, is off for Bluefields, to assist the Detroit in protecting American interests there. Since her orders were issued the situation in Nicaragua has become less strained, through the compromise effected by Minister MERRY, under which the disputed duties, levied on our traders at Bluefields, are to be deposited in trust with Mr. BINGHAM, the British Consulat San Juan del Norte, subject to the decision of the Washington and Managua Governments as to whether they can lawfully be exacted. But the fact that the orders to the Vixen were not countermanded, and that the original purpose to have her keep on ultimately to the Pacific is said to have been abandoned, shows that the Government is determined to have an adequate force on station duty in Central American waters.

This purpose is emphasized by the reported intention to have the Viking follow the Vixen, perhaps to be stationed in the waters of Honduras. A point of correspondence with the Honduran Government, it appears, has related to an indemnity for the killing, a few months ago, of FRANK PEARS, an American citizen, by a soldier. But apart from special incidents our interests in Central America have become sufficient to justify having a vessel or two cruising in that region.

At a dinner of the Norwegian societies of Chicago Col. BRYAN said:

"As the burnt child dreads the fire, so the foreignborn citizen, having observed the insidious growth of aristocracy in other lands, and having fall the oppressive weight of militarism, will be quick to note their approach in the United States."

Perhaps it was not the pangs of suppressed oratory that made the Colonel resign his commission. Perhaps it was the oppressive weight of militarism.

The owner of the British steam yacht Lady St. Auburn has been hunting, with some success, in the Island of Vanicoro, the most southern of the Santa Cruz group, for relies o the famous French explorer, LA PEROUSE, who so mysteriously disappeared with his two frigates and their crews in 1788. The hunt has been rewarded by the discovery of a few mementos of that tragical shipwreck such as some rusty muskets, lead bullets, fron cannon balls and French and Spanish gold and silver coins of 1721 and 1728. They had been carried to the island when the castaways took refuge there after the Astrolabe and Boussole had been driven ashore in a hurricane. No record of their experiences has ever been found on Vanicoro, and the only relies hitherto brought from there are those which Capt. DILLON discovered in 1827, thirty-nine years after the tragedy, and which were proved, beyond a doubt, to have belonged to the ill-fated

expedition. In the many years before any trace was found French warships had scoured the Pacific and D'ENTRECASTEAUX, after two years' search with two vessels, died while still seeking to unravel the mystery. The La Pérouse expedition had been most carefully fitted out by the French Government for a long exploring cruise, and it had sent home very interesting accounts of the Hawaiian Islands, the coast of California, the eastern shores of Asia to Kamtchatks, and then of the visit far south to the

ates refitted at Botany Bay, Australia, and started north to seek for the Northwest passage. The final fate of the crews can only be conjectured from the stories some of the old men of Vanicoro told to Capt. DILLON. They said that one crew perished to a man either in the surf or at the hands of the natives as they struggled to the shore. The other crew succeeded in landing and lived on the island "for many moons, after which they sailed away to the west in a two-masted vessel they had built from the timbers of their ship. Nothing is certainly known of their fate, but it is conjectured that they endeavored to reach Botany Bay, whence

were swamped in the great ocean. Some years ago French geographers cele brated the centenary of LA PEROUSE's discov eries in the Pacific, and about the same time the theory was advanced that a battered old hulk found on Temple Island was the wreck of the little vessel in which the survivors tried to escape from Vanicoro. This theory has no been justified by later investigations. The loss of the expedition was one of the few great tragedies of exploration, and it is interesting to recall it now that fresh belongings of the unhappy mariners have been brought back to

they might secure transportation home, and

Gen. JAMES R. WEAVER of Jown comes un sputtering from the wave of calamity, which is his element, and calls for a convention of the People's Party of that State. As the party conbe obeyed. While treading water Gen. WEAVER eried that "the imperialism of wealth has at last brought us to the imperialism of the " Then, kerplunk | and no more of Gen. JAMES B. WEAVER until he meets in State Con-

Judging from the reception given to the Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BEYAN by the Yale students in 1896 and that given to the Hon. PAWNEE BILL by the Princeton students in 1899, the circus jars on the undergraduate temperament

## The Original John Jacob Astor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I was William Waldorf Astor assigns the following America:

In America my great grandfather's life and charonly an odd travesty survives. By the press he has been continually derided and reviled with that spirit of pure malignity which pursues the success ful man. It is not democratic to climb so high.

I do not think that the first John Jacob Astor in this country has been derided. So far as pretty wide reading goes to show, he is universally recognized as having been a publicspirited citizen, patriotic and able. No American schoolboy can read without a thrill of admiration the story of Mr. Astor's courage and
sacrifices in endeavoring to retain for his country the vast Northwest, which that then unfriendly nation, of which his descendant has
become a citizen, so nearly succeeded in taking
from us, through the foily of men less wise
and brave than he. Astor and Whitman, the
teroes of Oregon, the sturdy patriots of action,
the opponents of "little America," derided?
Bosh: It is not true.

May not Mr. Astor have mistaken for derision
the frequent references made in print to the
humble origin and modest beginnings in business life of the first American Astor-references which are highly to his credit—and the
comparisons that irresistibly suggest themselves between him and certain of his descendants? I have seen such comparisons
which might indeed account for anger on Mr.
Astor's part, butnot for his great-grandfather's
sake.

New Yore, May 19. versally recognized as having been a public-

NEW YORK, May 19.

Card from a German Opposed to American

Expansion. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Please rant a German-American a little space in The Bun paper to say something about the remarks of the Hon. John Ruhm in yesterday's edition He, I declare, is not much in correspondence any more with the real sentiments of his German countrymen. So I will try to tell the truth about them to the best of my knowledge, based on thirty years living among them. Actually but a small percentage of our Germans speak English well enough to take part in political strife, and for the same reason they read newspapers printed in German. The Germans have no side issues, as Mr. Buhm seems to believe. Their separate organization is nothing but a matter of opportunity, if not necessity, because the supporters of a policy of war and conquest are apparently to be found in probably equal numbers among Republicans. Democrats and Populists. The Germans for the time being, cannot and will not trust any party. Almost united as one man in opposition to a policy of war and conquest, imperialism and militarism—they know by experience what that means—commanding millions of votes in a national election, they feel very strong in their at present isolated position. They wait for further political developments, trusting that their isolation will not last very long, because their patriotic purpose is very clear.

New York, May 19. any more with the real sentiments of his Ger

Bishop Potter's Authority. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Bishop Potter, in his letter to a layman, points out that a Bishop's authority is constitutional, not absolute. Very well; the question then arises whether a Bishop has any authority to refuse to ordain a man of whose moral unsoundness of the Standing Committee. Certainly, if a Bishop did so refuse to "take order" on the ground that the moral finess of a candidate was unsatisfactory, his veto would be justified not more by his peers than by the whole body of the Church.

not more by his peers than by the whole body of the Church.

Is there any less justification in a case of error of doctrine? It is not an untenable position to maintain that the consecration vow—"Are you ready, with all diligence, to banish and drive away from the Church all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's Word?"—implies a veto power. At least, a Bishop would be within his rights to ask his Standing Committee to reconsider their consent.

A Bishop is doubtless a constitutional executive, but he is not less the final authority on whom the Church relies to decide whether candidates for holy orders are "apt and meet for their learning and godly conversation to exercise their ministry to the honor of God and the edifying of His Church."

PRIEST.

MAY 18.

## The Catholic Church and Divorce. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In Your

issue of this day (Friday), a Boston correpondent signing himself John Clay Crittendon, writing about divorce, says that "while the Catholic Church does not sanction the granting of absolute divorces for infidelity, it seems probable that she will in time." Now, it is neither probable nor possible that the Catholic Church will ever do anything of the kind. It is a defined doctrine of Catholic faith that the bond of consummated Christian marriage can be dissolved only by the death of either party, and she will never recognize its dissolution in any other way simply because she cannot; she has not the power to do so. Your correspondent might as well expect that the Church will in time give up her belief in heaven as expect that she will ever sanctior the granting of absolute divorce for conjugal infidelity. She can no more give up one doctrine of faith than she can another. By virtue of her defined teaching, then, the Catholic Church must ever be the uncompromising foe of divorce and its ruinous consequences, as on the contrary she must ever be the champion of family integrity and social stability and the saleguard of our cherished republic.

Morans Parke, L. I., May 19. W. J. M. granting of absolute divorces for infidelity, it

### As to Propelling Boats by Means of a Bellows.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A man could stand on the edge of a sheet of water and blow a toy boat about with blasts from a pair of bellows, no doubt. What I want to know is, could a man standing in a boat big enough to hold him, make the boat go by filling enough to hold him, make the boatgo by filling the sail with wind in the same manner, using, of course, bigger bellows? Two men, each with a bellows, could keep up a practically continuous biast. This may be something like asking if a man can lift himself by his boot strains, and I have a vague idea that it is something akin to that, but still I would like to know.

MAY 20.

Navigator. From a Sufferer from Stuttering.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Much has been critten by your readers as to the conjuring away of warts. Kindly allow me to ask through The Sun if there is any method by which one can overcome or there is any method by which one can overcome or conjure away that terrible affliction, stuttering. I am a young man 21 years of age, no vices, keep regular hours, cat hearty and sleep well. At my place of business I have to meet many people, and I do so with a tremor in my heart, for I don't know whether I am going to make a blubbering idnot of myself or not. It is greatly embarransing and I am getting desperate, and if not cured soon will pack up and bury myself in Africa or some other old place. Probably some of your readers are or have been unfortunately some of your readers are or have been unfortunately some of which is the respect, and any suggestions they may make will be received with the deepest gratitude. Fours.

MAX 18.

A CARD FROM GEN. MILES'S ADVISER.

Mr. Henry R. Probasco Replies to a Recent Article in The Sun-The Sun Also Prints the Beef Contract for Comparison, and

Discusses Mr. Probasco's Statement. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In justice o the friends of Gen. Miles, who, you must admit, are legion. I respectfully submit that i will be but fair for you to give space to properly answer the criticisms in your editorial of the 14th just, of statements made by me concernng the report of the court of inquiry. You de nounce what I had to say as a "falsehood since the terms on which the packers agreed to supply beef to the Government were that it should keep not 'seventy-two hours after de livery from the refrigerator,' to quote Mr. Procaseo, but twenty-four hours."

The Commissary-General had in common

with the humblest butcher in the land knowl

edge that meat would spoil in a tropical climate frigerator. That he had this knowledge prior to the execution of the contracts for the supply of beef to the army is shown by the uncontra dicted testimony before the court of inquiry of Mr. Armstrong of Dallas, Tex., who said Gen. Eagan mentioned that Swift & Co. had two representatives who explained to him fully that they possessed a new preservative that would keep the meat fresh and sound seventy-two hours after being taken out of the refrigerator. In answer to my (Armstrong's) statement that I did not think this could be done except some process be used unknown to the trade generally, he (the Commissary-General) stated that Swift & Co. was reliable and responsible firm, and that they would be required to carry out any agreemen they might make. He (Gen. Eagan) stated further that Armour & Co. also proposed to furnish meat that would be treated with a process that would insure its keeping the length of time required under the contract." Not only did the Commissary-General make this statement to Mr. Armstrong, but upon being advised by other men of large experience. among them Mesers. Simpson, Giddings and Sypher, who testified, without contradiction before the court of inquiry that mest could not be kept sound and sweet for seventy-two hours after delivery, he made substantially the same statements to them as he did to Mr. Armstrong. The Commissary-General knew directly fro Mr. Powell the inventor and proprietor of what is known as the "Powell" process for the preservation of meat, of such a process, for he received a letter from Mr. Powell, dated May 25, 1898, in which he explained in a general way the advantages of his process, and in which he volunteered the suggestion "that in the climate of Cuba meats exposed after being taken from the iceboxes will only stand up a very short time." Furthermore, he had explicit information concerning this particular process from Armour & Co.'s attorneys in a letter written by them to the Secretary of War. and by him, the Secretary of War, referred to the Commissary-General the day after the bids were opened, which letter is hereafter referred to.

The Commissary-General, therefore, having knowledge as to the perishable quality of fresh meat in tropical climates, and having been fully advised that the preservation of meat a sufficient length of time to enable it to reach the troops in good condition could not be done by ordinary methods, taking little heed of the fact that troops on the field in this country and the enormous number of Spanish troops in Cuba had been supplied with beef on the block and beef on the hoof, proceeded to enter into contracts for a supply of beef for our soldiers in Florida, Cuba and Porto Rico which would be guaranteed to be fit for tood seventy-two hours after delivery, when he must have known that no contractor could perform such a contract without a process for preservation other than cold air. And the uncontradicted testimony of witnesses shows that he knew that such processes were being used, and were contemplated to be used, by the parties proposing to supply this meat.

If this was not an experiment, make the best

Age agy that the terms on which the packers agreed to supply beef to the Government were that it should keen twenty-four hours. Let us see. On the 2th of May, 1828, the Commissary-General in a letter to Mr. I Owell said; the form come one who will furnish meat and guarantee its good condition on arrival, for seventy-two hours thereafter; or who will slaughter and deliver as required, wherever the troops may be." Swift & Co. in its bid dated June run of the Commissary-General of the 7th of June, said, among other things: "It (Swift & Commany) will deliver said beef at Cuban ports to be designated by the Government, and will guarantee that said beef will be perfectly good and fit for deliverations." If I am not mistaken the telegram of the Commissary-General referred to in the above bid of Swift & Co. contained a provision that "it the meat: will be perfectly good and fit for use seventy-two hours after diversed by the Government of the commissary General referred to in the above bid of Swift & Co. contained a provision that "it the meat: will be perfectly good and fit for use seventy-two hours after diversed by the good and the contained a provision that "it the meat will be perfectly good and fit for use seventy-two hours after diversed by a seventy-two hours and the fit of the good and the fit of t

quoted from the proposal of the Commissary, General, which provided: You (Swift & Co.) must put in your own refrigerating plant and undertake to deliver the beef so that it will be perfectly good and fit for use seventy-two hours after delivery," and in which proposal Swift & Co. guaranteed "to carry out all requirements of said proposal.

With this statement of facts, how can any fair-minded or reasonable man, be he a member of a court of inquiry, editor of The New York Sux, or any other individual, fall to conclude that inasmuch as it was known to the Commissary-General that meat would not remain sound for seventy-two hours after delivery in the tropics, he must also have known that any contractor proposing to deliver meat which would remain sound for such a length of time must of necessity be compolied to use some process other than cold air to enable him to carry out his contract?

Nofresh meat was supplied to the Subsistence Department for use in Cuba from June 7 July 20, and when it was finally delivered, in very many instances it did not keep long enough to reach the camps of tropis four or five miles distant without a great loss, aggregating almost 25 or 30 per cent, to the soldiers,

The Commissary Department has recognized the mistake of its experiment, and is now supplying meat to Cuba in the form of beef on the noof or beef on the block, cuttle being shipped to the island and slaughtered there. The Government knew that beef cattle could be obtained at least in Porto Rice, and Gen. Miles requested on Aug. 2, by cablegram to the Sessent, as it cannot be used more than a day from the coast." And on July 20 Gen. Miles advised the Secretary of War, that no more fresh beef be sent, as it cannot be used more than a day from the coast." And on July 20 Gen. Miles advised the Secretary of War, that no more fresh beef be sent, as it cannot be used more than a day from the coast." And on July 20 Gen. Miles advised the Secretary of War from Newport News to Porto Rice with Soulous pounds of refrigerated beef.

Porto Rico with 300,000 pounds of refrigerated beef.

Gen. Miles, as promptly as any man could, after receiving tangible information as to the quality of the meat ration furnished the army, set on foot the usual methods for investigation, and promptly, submitted his reports to the Secretary of War. His whole course during the war was commendable from whatever aspect it is viewed, and had it not been in my judgment, for the derweening ambition of certain subordinates for his deposition, and the instatement of one of them to his place, and the pernicious introduction of politics into the War Department, these unfortunate complications would not have arisen. But notwithstanding these complications, Gen. Miles has pursued the even tenor of his way, and regardless of whatever may have been his personal views concerning the court of inquiry, he has observed his duty as a soldier by making no criticism of the finding of this court, but his silence does not proclude a friend, conversant with all of the facts of the case, from an expression of opinion concerning the findings of the court. CINCINNATI, May 19.

H. R. PROBASCO.

Inasmuch as Mr. Probaseo says in the above ommunication that the contract contained some things that it does not contain, and would have the public believe that the meat supply was regulated by unofficial remarks of Gen. Eagan, or communications connected with him, The Sun herewith gives the pas-sages of the contract that apply to the case. The contract, of course, governed.

## THE CONTRACT.

Articles of agreement entered into this 1st day of July, 1808, between Brig.-Gen. Charles . Eagan, Commissary-General of Subsistence, United States Army, of the first part, and Swift & Co., a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, doing business in the city of Chicago, county of Cook and State of Illinois, of the second part.

I. The party of the second part shall furnish to the United States such quantities of refrigerated, chilled or frozen fresh beef in buik, delivered at points on the seacoast of Cuba occupied by the army of the United States, as shall rom time to time be called for by the Commissary-General of Subsistence of the United States Army. The party of the second part shall be required to make shipments only at such ports of the United States as have tracks connecting railroads with docks, whereby shipments of fresh beef may be transferred directly

from cars to ship refrigerators. II. The party of the second part shall also, at their own expense, provide and operate refrigerator buildings at such ports in Cuba occupied by the army of the United States as may be necessary for carrying out the object of this contract, and shall move the same from point to point on the seacoast as may be necessary for the support of moving troops. They shall keep not less than two experts with each cargo on shipboard and after landing, until the beef is delivered to the proper officers of the Government, which shall not be more than seventy-two (72) hours from the

ime of storing same in such refrigerators. III. The beef is to be properly clothed by the party of the second part for its protection and proper handling, and so preserved by the refrigeration on shipboard and at the refrigerator buildings referred to in Article II, hereof as that it shall be perfectly good and fit for use seventy-two (72) hours after being issued from the ships' refrigerators, or twenty-four (24) hours after being issued from the refrigerator buildings to the proper officers of the Govern-

VII. Whenever the fresh beef presented at the steamships or at the refrigerator buildings in Cuba for delivery under this contract is, in the the kind, quality or condition stipulated for, he shall immediately apply to the commanding officer at the point of delivery for a board of officers, to consist of as many members, not exceeding three, as can be assembled. The board shall at once examine the beef presented, and its findings, when approved by the commanding officer, shall be conclusive in regard thereto. CHAS. P. EAGAN.

Brigadier-General, Commissary-General of SWIFT & COMPANY.

By GUSTAVUS F. SWIFT, President.

WHEN NEW YORK DRESSES UP FOR DEWEY.

# A Plea for the Artistic and Harmonious

Decoration of the City on That Occasion. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-Sir: Everybody is united in the determination to give Dewey a rousing welcome in New York. The occasion will be unique. Our city, for the time being, will be the Mecca of many visitors and the cynosure of the whole country. It will be acting as the representative of the entire nation. No one doubts that the reception will be a complete success in the way of enthusiasm; cannot it also be made impressive in an artistic sense? The city will be en file, and will adorn itself with decoration. Instead of this being left to the contrivance of individual citizens, it should be made, by intelligent preparation and co-operation, some thing really worthy of the occasion, the city and the

tions at the opening of Grant's tomb, and it was a matter of common assent that the land display at the Diamond Jubilee in London was marred by want of concerted action and of artistic plan. These affairs are managed better in Paris, simply because they are conducted on the common sense principle, which makes a man go to a tailor when he needs a artistic scheme of decoration. The scason of the year will be ideal for a great open air pageant, agement the city may present an object lesson in the way of decoration as fine as any attempted in

modern times.

A committee of reception has already been set on foot by the Mayor. One of its departments should be devoted to the artistic embellishment of the principal sections of the city and should immediately put itself to communication with the Fine Arts Federation. This association comprises all the take corporate action upon important art matters, and could be relied upon to nominate a committee formulate a worthy scheme and cooperate with the Mayor's committee in carrying it out. New York has here a splendid opportunity: will she not seize

CHARLES II. CATVIN. SALMAGENDI CLUB, May 19.

Medals for New York Volunteers. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sire The following appeared in your paper on Tuesday:

MEDALS FOR JERSEY VOLUMERERS MEDITA FOR JEBRIE VOIL STERS.

FOR SHORT, N. J., May 15.—(iv. Vorthers and the legislative committee to day selected the design for the median to be presented by the State to the New Jones volunteer soldiers and sailers who served in the Spanish war.

Why doesn't Gov. Roosevelt get something of that ert for the New York volunteers? I think it subout time we got some compensation for our services ONE OF THE NINTH

BROOKLYS, N. Y., May 18. Don Carlos Soon to "Put It to the Test,"

From the London Saturday Review.
Unless some unforeseen mishap should occur, its will not be long before Don Carlos submits his for